



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-1523, **Agenda Item #:** 30.

3/26/2020

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement with Austin Independent School District for the development and cost-sharing of projects related to improving shared-use paths, sidewalks, and pedestrian crossing within the City right-of-way in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

Lead Department

Public Works

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the FY 2019-2020 Capital Budget of the Public Works Department.

Prior Council Action:

August 18, 2016 - Council passed Resolution No. 20160818-074, which included information on the projects to be included in the Mobility Bond on a 7-1 vote with Council Member Houston voting nay, Council Members Garza, Troxclair, and Zimmerman abstaining.

August 18, 2016 - Council passed Ordinance No. 20160818-023, which ordered a special election for the purpose of authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds for transportation and mobility on a 7-1 vote with Council Member Houston voted nay, Council Members Garza, Troxclair, and Zimmerman abstaining.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

Through the 2016 Mobility Bond, the Safe Routes to School Program was awarded \$27.5 million for infrastructure improvements at 137 public elementary and middle schools around Austin. In order to determine how to best allocate this funding, the Safe Routes to School Program recently wrapped up a multi-year planning initiative to identify barriers for students walking and biking to school. The types of improvements that were recommended in the Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Reports include new sidewalks, shared-use paths, crosswalks, bike lanes, traffic calming, lighting, as well as other types of improvements.

Meanwhile in 2017, the Austin Independent School District ("AISD") Bond approved funding for the full reconstruction of 21 schools within Austin. Many of the sidewalks at the schools which are scheduled for reconstruction are not currently ADA compliant and are required to be reconstructed.

At various AISD campuses which are scheduled for renovations, the sidewalks that are identified for reconstruction are also identified in the Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Reports as candidates for widened sidewalks or shared-use paths. AISD has funding available to reconstruct these sidewalks as five foot wide, code compliant sidewalks. However, by cost-sharing between Safe Routes to School and AISD, wider sidewalks may be possible which can better accommodate the needs of both students walking and bicycling to school. Safe Routes to School will benefit by being able to address barriers within the Infrastructure Reports at a fraction of what it would otherwise cost as a stand-alone project and AISD will benefit by having improved

infrastructure leading directly to their schools, reducing congestion and improving commutes for students, staff, and the general public.

This Interlocal Agreement will provide the legal structure needed to leverage the available funding between our respective programs to better meet the needs of the community

Mobility, Government that Works for All.